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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

1. COUNTRY Indochina
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Prisoner of War Camps
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10. SUMMARY

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1. Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV) prisoner of war camps are not located in fixed installations. Prisoners are concentrated in villages, live among the population and are watched by DRV guerrilla troops. Each camp is administered by a committee comprising a chief, four or six supervisors who are usually "Propaganda to the Enemy" agents, and one man, usually a prisoner, who is in charge of supplies.
2. Prisoners are not confined after questioning but are permitted to circulate freely within the village. The DRV moves its prisoners every three months to prevent area familiarization, escape attempts, and danger of enemy operations or parachuting.
3. The number of prisoners in each camp rarely exceeds five hundred. French, French Army, Vietnamese, African, and Legionnaire prisoners are concentrated in the same camp, while Vietnamese prisoners from the Vietnamese army are concentrated in separate camps.
4. All prisoners are treated the same as DRV troops. The committee which administers the camp gives each prisoner a daily allowance, the amount of which depends upon the cost of living in the particular area. Prisoners are responsible for buying and cooking their own food. They also receive a weekly ration of DRV manufactured cigarettes and DRV publications. Generally speaking, the prisoners are treated decently although they lack medicinal drugs.

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5. The DRV organizes weekly lectures to indoctrinate the prisoners in the world revolutionary movement and the successes achieved by DRV forces. Agents impersonating prisoners are used to determine which of the Vietnamese prisoners can be converted. In the indoctrination of French and African prisoners, the DRV employ converted compatriots. The DRV has been very successful with this method in converting many Legionnaires, particularly Germans and Austrians.
6. A group of 500 prisoners comprising European and Moroccan non-commissioned officers and men was recently sent to the village of Yen Lidi (sic), Chau Son Duong, in Tuyen Quang Province. These men were selected from different concentration camps because they appeared sympathetic with the DRV regime.
7. The prisoners at Yen Lidi are receiving a six months' course in Marxism. General Le Quang Hoa, Chief of the Bureau of Education for National Defense (Quan Huan Cuc Truong) has gone to Chau Son Duong to talk to this group. These prisoners will be released upon completion of this period of indoctrination. Some prisoners converted by the DRV at times propagandize for the DRV when they are returned to France.

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